

PUGET SOUND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

June 28, 2013

This Legislative Update highlights the issues impacting our region's work to protect and restore the health of Puget Sound. Previous editions are available online at www.psp.wa.gov.

Compromise on Operating budget averts government shutdown

House and Senate budget negotiators reached a handshake agreement Thursday on an Operating Budget that will avert the shutdown of state services on Monday. Details of the budget deal were made available just after midnight today and we are analyzing the overall impacts to Puget Sound recovery.

For the Partnership, our important role to protect public tax dollars spent on Puget Sound and advance regional efforts received strong bipartisan support in the negotiated agreement. Highlights include:

- **Developing levee vegetation demonstration pilot projects** in King and Whatcom counties to address conflicting demands and federal policies regarding floodplains (\$635,000 ALEA).
- **Advancing Puget Sound steelhead recovery efforts** by coordinating a study of juvenile steelhead marine survival in partnership with the Department of Fish & Wildlife, federal, tribal, and nongovernmental entities (\$788,000 ALEA).
- **Supporting ongoing science-based, adaptive management efforts** for Puget Sound recovery (\$450,000 GF-F).

Additionally, there is a budget proviso maintaining and specifying the Partnership's responsibility to provide the Governor a single, prioritized list of state agency capital and operating budget requests related to Puget Sound restoration by October 1, 2014 for 2015-2017 biennium.

A vote on the Operating budget is anticipated today and the Governor hopes to sign it Sunday. Details and related documents for the proposed budget (*Striking Amendment S-3053 to 2ESSB 5034*) are available at: http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/archives/index_budgetsp.asp

2013 SESSION AT A GLANCE

Information:

- For up-to-date legislative information, visit: www.leg.wa.gov
- To watch or listen to a legislative hearing, visit: www.tvw.org
- For both current and previous copies of the Legislative Update, visit: www.psp.wa.gov

Communication and Coordination:

If you are planning to testify on a bill, meet with legislators, or would like assistance with state legislative issues regarding Puget Sound priorities—please contact:

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Fish Consumption temporarily held-up budget negotiations

It is important to note, one hang-up in negotiations earlier this week involved Boeing's request for an additional study of human fish consumption trends. In the end, the fish consumption issue was omitted from the budget entirely, but a discussion group started by Gov. Inslee, industry leaders and others will continue the conversation about this important issue.

Transportation and Capital budget negotiations may continue into July

Immediate adjournment is not likely, even if the Legislature delivers an operating budget to the Governor today. The House adopted a transportation budget on Thursday by a 52-to-40 vote, but ongoing negotiations with the Senate on the roughly \$10 billion transportation-tax package could extend into July.

The capital budget is also being worked on and a vote is anticipated this sometime this weekend. The estimated amount is roughly \$3.5 billion. Details to come.

As legislators negotiate, our region continues to support fully funding **Puget Sound's number one Capital Budget priority—the Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration (PSAR) account at \$80 million**. PSAR advances the regionally adopted Puget Sound goals by implementing the science-based watershed plans developed and prioritized by a broad regional coalition of local jurisdictions, Tribes, environmental groups, businesses, farmers, and state and federal agencies. Read some of the many letters our partners have sent to legislators in supporting fully funding PSAR: www.psp.wa.gov (lower, right section of the webpage).

The Partnership will provide a comprehensive summary of the top 10 highest-ranked Puget Sound budget priorities after the House and Senate adopt the operating, transportation and capital budgets.

We will continue to keep you informed as negotiations continue. Please stay tuned, keep in touch with your legislators, and call me any time with questions.